

March 2, 2004

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

2004 Opinion No. 24

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)
OF: CHARLES HAMLET,)
FOR COUNTY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.)

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EASTERN IDAHO REGIONAL MEDICAL)
CENTER,)

Petitioner-Appellant,)

v.)

ADA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY)
COMMISSIONERS,)

Respondent.)

) Docket No. 28979

Appeal from the District Court of the Fourth Judicial District, State of Idaho, Ada County. Hon. D. Duff McKee, District Judge.

The decision of the district court is affirmed.

Moffatt, Thomas, Barrett, Rock & Fields, Pocatello, for appellant. David P. Gardner argued.

Greg H. Bower, Ada County Prosecutor, Boise, for respondent. Janice D. Newell argued.

The Appellant, Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center, ("EIRMC") filed a claim on June 1, 2001, with the Respondent, Ada County Board of County Commissioners, ("Ada County") for medical services performed on Charles W. Hamlet for an upper gastrointestinal bleed. Mr. Hamlet was living in West Yellowstone, Montana at the time he needed the medical services, but was transported to EIRMC for the care. Mr. Hamlet died from the condition on May 24, 2001. According to Idaho law, a county may be responsible for medical care of destitute residents who qualify. Ada County refused to pay EIRMC for the care it provided to Mr. Hamlet because Ada County determined he was not a resident of Ada County. EIRMC sought review of Ada County's decision by the district court. The district court concluded Ada County made the right

decision based upon the evidence. EIRMC now appeals to this Court for review of the district court's decision.

The Court holds that substantial evidence in the record as a whole supports the conclusion that Mr. Hamlet was not a resident of Idaho at the time of receiving medical services because he did not possess the intent to remain in Idaho. Based on this conclusion, all additional issues raised by EIRMC need not be addressed. Therefore, the Judgment of the district court is affirmed. The Court awards costs to Ada County.